

INFORMATION BULLETIN

WELFARE-TO-WORK

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TO: SERVICE DELIVERY AREA ADMINISTRATORS
PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL CHAIRPERSONS
WELFARE-TO-WORK 15 PERCENT SUBGRANTEES
DOL WELFARE-TO-WORK 25 PERCENT SUBGRANTEES
COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES STAFF
EDD EXECUTIVE STAFF
WID STAFF

SUBJECT: WtW ADVISORY GROUP MEETING MINUTES—AUGUST 23, 2000

The minutes and revised agenda from the Welfare-to-Work (WtW) Advisory Group meeting held at the Employment Development Department, Workforce Investment Division in Sacramento on August 23, 2000, are attached for your review and information. Please ensure that the minutes are provided to the appropriate staff.

The next meeting scheduled for October 25, 2000, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 750 N Street, Workforce Investment Division, Conference Room A.

If you have any questions regarding the minutes, please contact Brett Lapp at blapp@edd.ca.gov or (916) 653-3560.

/S/ JIM CURTIS, Chief
Program Development and Management Division

Attachments

WELFARE-TO-WORK ADVISORY GROUP MEETING
750 N Street, WID Conference Room A
Sacramento, California
Wednesday, August 23, 2000

Agenda

Welcome and Opening Remarks	Suzanne Nobles, California Department of Social Services/Jim Curtis
Agenda Building	All
Review of Prior Meeting Notes	All
Report on WtW Forums	Suzanne Nobles/ Jim Curtis
Federal Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WtW Regulations• Reporting Requirements	Ralph Zackheim
Non-custodial Parents Program Designs	All
Child Support Issues	All
WtW Advisory Group Meeting Schedule and Agenda Items	All

WELFARE-TO-WORK (WtW) ADVISORY GROUP MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 23, 2000

Review of Prior Meeting Notes—A request for corrections to the June 14, 2000, minutes and suggested replacement text was submitted prior to the convening of the August 23, 2000, meeting. The corrections and suggested text were incorporated into the document. No additional corrections were requested from the Advisory Group.

Report on California's WtW Forums— Suzanne Nobles and Gail Sullivan, California Department of Social Services (CDSS), and Jim Curtis, Employment Development Department (EDD), offered their observations and comments regarding California's WtW Forums.

Observations and comments of note included:

- The forums proved useful for all attendees.
- The team effort of EDD, CDSS, and the Department of Labor (DOL) in developing and providing the forums was successful.
- There was a free-flowing exchange of dialog and ideas amongst the attendees.
- Most of the forums were well attended, particularly the ones in Ontario and Sacramento.
- The willingness and commitment of DOL staff as a major partner of the forums and their ability to address an extensive variety of questions were impressive and appreciated.
- The CDSS and EDD may consider another forum in Los Angeles.
- The county and local area panels contributed interesting, informative, and valuable practices and lessons learned.
- Attendees discussed utilizing these practices in their local areas.
- The forums offered a great environment for open communication between county social service departments and local workforce investment area staff.

The EDD and CDSS are currently drafting a summary document that will provide an overall synopsis of the forums and response to questions that were raised at the forums.

Federal Update—Ralph Zackheim, DOL, reported out on the forums DOL held for their federal WtW 25 percent grantees. Ralph noted that all 24 of California's 25 percent grantees participated. Ralph felt that the information sharing and exchanging of ideas amongst the attendees was great.

Dan Baker, of the Department of Health and Human Services Agency, reported that California met and exceeded its federal Fiscal Year 1999, participation rates for the Total Participant Caseload by 400 percent (was required to meet 8.5 percent, but reached 42.2 percent) and Two-Parent Family Caseload by 47 percent (was required to meet 36.9 percent but achieved 54.3 percent). Dan also noted that, in comparing these caseload percentages nationally, California is ahead of the curve.

Ralph said there was nothing new to report on the WtW regulations and reporting requirements. Except that with the Workforce Investment Act final regulations out, the WtW Grant regulations should move quickly at the federal level. Ralph announced that the National WtW Grant Conference information is on the DOL/Employment and Training Administration WtW Web site. He also stated that there is congressional language moving forward in Washington DC to extend the expenditure time frame for the WtW formula funds by two years. If the President signs the bill, states will have to negotiate with DOL to implement the provision.

Child Support Issues—The new Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) was represented at the meeting. Silvia Rodrigues, DCSS, informed the Advisory Group that she is a temporary representative for her Department. Silvia explained that her Department is currently developing their strategic plan, goals and objectives and when those tasks are completed, a permanent representative will be designated to attend the Advisory Group meetings.

Espie Bonilla, Los Angeles County Department of Social Services, informed the Advisory Group that Los Angeles county has developed and is now using a Personal Responsibility Contract (*Attachment 3*) with non-custodial parents (NCP). Espie explained that an NCP must sign and abide by the provisions of the contract in order for the NCP to participate and continue to receive services in the WtW Grant program.

A question of arrearages regarding child support and what, if any, authority the State had for waiving all or part of the debt was raised. The Advisory Group was informed that if the money is owed to the State, the State has some flexibility to address issues of arrearages. However, no portion of child support owed to the custodial parent can be waived.

Collaborative Efforts Between Local Areas and CWDs—In discussing collaborative efforts at the local level, the issue of match money - its uses and expenditure rates - became the prevalent topic of discussion. Comments and observations of note include:

- The Bay Area currently has a 100 percent expenditure rate of its match money and expects to fully utilize its match money allocations
- Los Angeles County has developed a Long-term Family Self-sufficiency Plan with the intention of using its match funds to operate the project. However, the county has had to delay implementation of the program as match funds ear-marked for its

operation may be diverted to offset the reduction in employment services allocations.

Scheduling of Next WtW Advisory Group Meeting—The next WtW Advisory Group meeting is scheduled for October 25, 2000. The following topics were offered as suggested agenda items for the October meeting.

Department of Child Support Services

- Departments Strategic Plans, Goals, Objectives
- Overview of State/Federal Legislation on Child Support
- Update on WtW Grant Regulations and Reporting Requirements
- DOL Reported Out Regarding the WtW Beyond 2000 Conference
- Follow Up Questions/Issues from the WtW Grant Forums
- Matching Funds Update
- Local Area Child Support Agencies Split

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Welfare-to-Work Program

Personal Responsibility Contract

As a condition of my agreement to participate in the **(Name of WtW Agency)** DOL Welfare-to-Work Program, which is designed to assist me to improve my ability to obtain and/or increase my earning capacity,

I, **(Name of WtW Participant)**, will work toward obtaining or retaining employment, and increasing my earnings and contributions that will help assure the well being of my children by:

- 1) Cooperating in the establishment of paternity and a child support order, and/or complying with my existing child support court order;
- 2) Commit to paying and/or modifying an existing order of child support, if changes in my personal earnings or family make-up affect my financial circumstances, and
- 3) Participate in employment and related activities to increase my ability to pay child support on a regular basis.*
 (*If I am under **20** years of age, this **may include** educationally related activities for the attainment of a high school diploma or GED)

I will also cooperate with all WtW program staff and program activities and comply with all provisions contained in the WtW Individual Service Plan designed specifically for me. These WtW program activities may include:

Job readiness workshops	Paid Work Experience	Post employment: Basic Skills Training Vocational Skills Training English-as-a-Second Language Training Mentoring Activities
Job Search/Placement	Support Services Job Retention Activities Substance Abuse Treatment	
Unsubsidized Employment	Case Mgmt/Counseling	
Paid On-the-Job Training	Assessment	
Case Staffings	Peer Support Group	
		Counseling

Participant Signature _____
Date

Staff Signature _____
Date

Organization/Agency Name _____
Area code/Phone Number

- ☐ The WtW participant verbally agreed to all the provisions of the Personal Responsibility contract.
- ☐ On file with WtW Agency
- ☐ Faxed to the District Attorney Office: Attn. Alana Tillmon at (323) 869-0633 _____
Date

Personal Responsibility Contract WtW Collaborative 2